

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee Membership

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.770, KRS 158.775

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendations for the 2011 appointments to the Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. According to KRS 158.770, the Kentucky Board of Education shall appoint the members of an advisory committee on writing to make recommendations to the board on methods of integrating writing into the curriculum, on teacher training programs and workshops designed to facilitate the effective teaching of writing, and on use of funds allotted for teacher professional development and school grants through the Kentucky Writing Program. The majority of the membership shall be educators currently employed by local school districts or public universities.

The Kentucky Writing Project State Network members nominate committee members. Because the Kentucky Writing Program incorporates various platforms for the delivery of professional development, it is important that all platforms be represented on the Writing Program Advisory Committee. It is also essential that committee members understand the necessity of writing professional development and the components of research-based professional development in the field of writing.

Since the passage of SB 1, the work of the writing advisory committee has been directed toward the implementation of the common core standards and program reviews in writing.

The following individuals are recommended:

Amanda Burns has been nominated and agreed to serve.

Amanda just completed her fourth year of teaching at Beechwood Elementary in the Beechwood Independent School District where she leads writing professional development for her peers. A member of the Northern Kentucky Writing Project (NKWP) 2010-2011, Amanda continued as a part of the NKWP Leadership team for the Summer Institute 2011. She also represented the NKWP at the state level

Writing Project as a part of the technology leadership team, where she led a three- day technology institute for the Writing Project.

Nan Ternes has been nominated and agreed to serve.

For the last seven years Nan has taught 7th grade language arts. She also has 21 years of experience teaching elementary grades (2-6), as well as gifted education (K-12). For several years Nan served on the Writing Advisory Committee and worked with teachers in her school to develop writing through the portfolios and across the curriculum. Most recently she was a writer when KDE developed the Writing Program Review. Currently she serves on the Arts & Humanities and Practical Living/ Career Studies Program Review Cadre in Henderson County actively leading implementation of the writing program review in her district.

Claire Batt has been nominated and agreed to serve.

Claire has 21 years of experience as an elementary teacher and literacy coach. She was on the Bluegrass Writing Project Professional Development team for four years, served on the KDE Writing Advisory Committee for four years, and provided leadership as a writing portfolio cluster leader for 15 years. In addition, Claire has served as a Fayette Co. District Language Arts resource teacher. Most recently she has served as a member of the KDE Reading Content Advisory Committee.

Natalie Croney has been nominated and agreed to serve.

Natalie Croney teaches English and speech communications and coaches the speech team at Bowling Green High School in Warren Co., KY. While earning her teaching certification, Natalie served as the creative writing mentoring artist for Kaleidoscope, which was an after school arts program funded by the Department of Juvenile Justice. As a teacher leader she actively participates on the Bowling Green Independent School District's vertical team, helping make the new Kentucky Core Content Standards accessible for English teachers. This summer she was an active participant in the 2011 Summer Invitational Institute sponsored by the Western Kentucky Writing Project. She extends her literacy leadership to teachers across the state by presenting at several state conferences.

Synthia Shelby has been nominated and agreed to serve.

Synthia taught middle school language arts for eight years. This fall she will begin her sixth year as a literacy resource teacher in Jefferson Co. In addition to being a Louisville Writing Project (LWP) fellow, she was the associate director for the LWP for two years. Currently, Cynthia is the president of the Greater Louisville Reading Council and she serves on the Kentucky Reading Association board.

Below is a chart reflecting the existing membership of the committee with the proposed appointments highlighted.

| Name | Role | Year Appointed |
|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Amanda Burns | Teacher-Beechwood Elementary (Kenton Co.) | 2011 |
| Nan Ternes | English teacher-North Middle School (Henderson Co.) | 2011 |
| Claire Batt | Literacy coach & teacher – Athens-Chilesburg Elementary (Fayette Co.) | 2011 |
| *Natalie Croney | Teacher – Bowling Green High School – (Warren Co.) | 2011 |
| *Synthia Shelby | English Resource Teacher— (Jefferson Co.) | 2011 |
| Cletus Turner | Teacher—Warfield Middle School (Martin County) | 2010 |
| Adam Hicks | Teacher—Bryan Station High School (Fayette County) | 2009 |
| Rebecca Coleman King | Teacher—Pikeville High School (Pike Co.) | 2008 |
| Jean Wolph Lisa Maggard | University Writing Project Network Coordinators | - - - - |

All serving four-year terms; WPN Coordinator is elected annually

*Indicates minority representation

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends appointment of the nominated members. Advisory groups and instructional partners offered nominations for these vacancies. The proposed members have expertise in the areas of writing instruction and/or professional development. With the approval of these new members, the composition of the Writing Program Advisory Committee will continue to represent all areas of the state and all levels of education

(elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary) in addition to representing gender and racial diversity.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Staff has consulted the current university writing project directors. The nominees are supported by the directors.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

It is important to have advice from those trained in the field of writing so that decisions can be made that will help to increase the college and career readiness of students.

Contact Person:

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Commissioner of Education

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